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AC 4471 (3) EASINGTON
Durham

Easington Rural District

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended December 31, 1917.

WINGATE,
July, 1918.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work for the year ended 31st December, 1917.

The population is assumed to be the same as in 1915, except at Hesleden, a developing village which has increased over a thousand, and this number is added.

The birth and death rates, on populations supplied by Registrar-General, are respectively 24·46 and 14·47, and the infant death rate 145.

The statistics in Tables I.–IV. are from population locally obtained, and embraces over 7,000 men enlisted.

955 deaths occurred, of which fifty-seven were outside the district, and 1,802 births were registered.

The death rate of persons belonging to the district was 13·34 per thousand of population, against 18·71 for the previous thirty-seven years, and 15·86 for the previous seven years.

The birth rate was 25·17 per thousand, against 37·22 for the previous thirty-seven years, and 33·29 for the previous seven years.

The death rate is 53 per cent. of the birth rate, against 45·78, the average of the previous thirty-seven years.

The number of deaths under five years was 414, being 43·35 per cent. of total deaths, against 50·45, the average of the previous thirty-seven years.

The infant mortality, that is the number of deaths to a thousand births, was 144, against 161·3, the average for the previous thirty-five years.

Twenty-nine deaths were of persons over eighty years, fourteen males and fifteen females, each with an average of 82·8 years; two were over ninety.

Sixty-four deaths were certified by coroner's inquest, and twenty-three uncertified were by coroner's order. None were by unqualified practitioners.

Thirty deaths occurred in the Union Workhouse: five over eighty, seventeen of persons belonging to the district.

Four deaths occurred in the Infectious Diseases Hospital, all from diphtheria.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases were 0·89 per thousand of population, against 1·83, the average for the previous thirty-six years. They were:—

	Under 5 years	Over 5 years	Total
Measles	25 ...	7 ...	32
Whooping cough	23 ...	– ...	23
Diphtheria	2 ...	7 ...	9
	50	14	64

MEASLES.—This appeared as an epidemic in May, first at Horden from where it spread to the whole of the district. It was of a milder form than usual, with a mortality of fractionally over 1 per cent., 78 per cent. of which were under five years. This Council agreed to co-operate with the County Council in adopting means to secure efficient nursing and check its spread. For this purpose the assistance afforded by the Health Visitors was utilised and Infant School Departments were closed at Horden, Station Town, Wingate, Seaham and Easington.

SCARLATINA.—This was nowhere epidemic. Two-thirds were in the first two quarters throughout the district. The incidence was 0·92 per thousand, the lowest on record, and the mortality for the first time since 1905 was *nil*. The usual precautions against its spread were observed.

Whooping Cough.—This was not epidemic, but was prevalent mostly at Wingate and Hutton Henry, where half the deaths occurred, and mostly in the last quarter. All were under five years and more than half were infants.

Diphtheria.—The incidence of this is the lowest since 1900. Twenty-four cases. An attack rate of 0·33 per thousand of population, and a case mortality of 37 per cent. They were spread over the year in four localities; no connection could be established between them; in one case only was there a suspicion of infection by contact. They occurred in twenty-two separate households: three better-class; nineteen in workmen's dwellings with an average of 1·6 persons per room. Five were very dirty, and only three were associated with sanitary defects. One was at a dairy farm, a mild case, and satisfactorily isolated.

Enteric Fever.—The incidence of this was the lowest on record except in 1915. Twenty-three cases. Attack rate per thousand, 0·32. Mortality, *nil.* On 16th November an interim report on thirteen cases occurring close together was submitted. Of the remaining, two were found to be pneumonia, and one was doubtful, and seven were sporadic, quite unconnected, in fairly sanitary surroundings, except one very dirty, and in no case was there any clue as to specific origin. One death certified in the early part of the year was a case notified five months before in the previous year; nephritis was given as a secondary cause and it was tabulated accordingly.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.—No case of this was notified, but a death certified from this was in a delicate family where some children had in previous years died from tubercular meningitis; it was so tabulated.

Diarrhœa.—The deaths were 8 per cent. of total deaths, a slight increase on the average of previous years. 85 per cent. were of children under five years. 56 per cent. were in the third quarter.

Puerperal Fever.—No case was notified, but a death, after inquiry, is so tabulated. Another case, there is reason to believe, occurred and recovered.

Tuberculosis.—The deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were 0·75 per thousand of population, a marked decrease on the previous year, 1·03. New pulmonary cases notified were 102, which, with the births, were visited by three County Health Visitors. Twenty-seven pulmonary cases received institutional treatment.

Venereal Diseases.—A Committee has been appointed to co-operate with the County Council for any scheme that may be adopted.

Housing.—Thirty-one houses were certified for occupation from plans passed in previous years. Thirteen plans were approved by your Committee: ten for small additions to existing properties and three for chapels. There has been no systematic improvement of old and insanitary houses; the

most that can be done is to keep them going with such repairs as can be obtained. An important work by your Council was a census of all the houses in the district as to overcrowding. This was found to exist to the extent of 17 per cent., and mostly in the two- and three-roomed houses, 34 and 23 per cent. respectively. The Special Committee dealing with this, purpose, as a first instalment, building 610 houses of three selected types of four and five rooms. Sites are being selected and negotiations for purchase proceeding to have all ready for building at the earliest opportunity.

Under the "Inspection of Districts Regulation Order" the following has been added to what was previously done, though action thereon remains in abeyance:—

	Inspected	Unfit
Easington	100 ...	–
Haswell	36 ...	36
South Hetton	24 ...	–
Murton	60 ...	–
Thornley	439 ...	154
Trimdon	18 ...	3
Station Town	23 ...	–
Seaham	104 ...	–
	804	193

The sewage disposal works and pumping plants have been maintained in good condition, and 181 yards of 9″ and 220 yards of 12″ sewers have been laid to replace those old and defective.

Excrement and Refuse Removal.—The contract arrangements for this are satisfactory, but

great difficulty has been experienced in most parts of the district, and penal measures had to be resorted to in some instances to obtain fair efficiency. The amount expended on this was £9,590.

NUISANCES.—Only one statutory order was served, and informal notices for minor defects to the number of 228.

Slaughter houses, cowsheds, dairies, lodging houses, factories and workshops have all received attention.

The Isolation Hospital has been maintained in high efficiency, and has received thirty-six patients for treatment and two for observation.

Bacillary examinations were:—

		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria	4 ...	1 ...	3
Enteric fever	10 ...	3 ...	7
Phthisis	36 ...	8 ...	28
	50	12	38

The Guardians disbursed £5,849 in out-relief.

The exemptions from vaccination, which were in the previous six years 19, 30, 36, 39, 45 and 46 per cent. of registered births, are this year 49 per cent.

For maternity and infant welfare, three County Health Visitors are in regular work and keep in touch with your Medical Officer. The cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were four, which is satisfactorily low.

The chief defect of the district is housing. The scavenging, drainage and water supply are fairly good in the absence of mishap. The incidence of infectious disease is comparatively favourable, excluding measles and tuberculosis. They were:—

	1915	1916	1917
Durham County ...	7·69 ...	6·20 ...	3·94
Rural Districts	8·27 ...	6·74 ...	3·36
Easington	4·73 ...	4·21 ...	1·88

In detail they were:—

	County	Rural Districts	Easington
Diphtheria	1·25 ...	0·93 ...	0·33
Enteric fever	0·23 ...	0·28 ...	0·32
Scarlet fever	2·03 ...	1·76 ...	0·90

The death rate is the lowest on record, and would have been lower but for ten unknown bodies found on the shore. The infant death rate, though below former years, is above the year before, due mainly to diarrhœa and whooping cough. The birth rate, varying from 18 in Castle Eden group to 29·8 in Thornley, is also the lowest on record. The illegitimate births were 1·07 per thousand of population and 4·27 per cent. of total births. The infant mortality among these was 233, against 140 in the legitimate.

The natural increase per thousand living was:—

	1915	1916	1917
England and Wales ...	7·0 ...	7·6 ...	3·4
Durham County ...	12·2 ...	12·0 ...	9·7
Easington	15·0 ...	13·4 ...	11·8

The following table shews the chief vital statistics of the district for 1917 compared with

those of the county per thousand of population:—

	Easington	Administrative County
Birth Rate	25·17 ...	23·0
Death Rate	13·34 ...	13·3
Infant mortality	144 ...	115
Zymotic diseases	0·89 ...	1·32
Small-pox	*Nil* ...	*Nil*
Scarlet fever	*Nil* ...	0·04
Diphtheria	0·12 ...	0·19
Enteric fever	*Nil* ...	0·03
Measles	0·44 ...	0·39
Whooping cough	0·32 ...	0·16
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0·82 ...	0·50
„ (over 2 „)	0·23 ...	0·15
Phthisis	0·75 ...	0·98
Other tubercular diseases	0·57 ...	0·47
Acute respiratory diseases	2·54 ...	2·30

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ARTHUR,

L.R.C.P.E., L.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.R.C.P.E.,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Easington Rural District Council.

TABLE I

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1917 and previous years

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each year	Births			Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un-corrected Number	Net						Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	* Rate	Number	* Rate	Of Non-residents registered in the District	Of Residents not registered in the District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Number	*Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1912	63,050	2,237	2,235	35·40	872	13·83	23	48	266	118	897	14·22
1913	66,001	2,343	2,341	35·49	1,038	15·72	24	70	353	150	1,084	16·42
1914	69,570	2,460	2,458	35·36	1,115	16·02	30	47	388	157	1,132	16·27
1915	70,582	2,235	2,231	31·60	1,132	16·03	26	62	346	155	1,168	16·54
1916	70,582	1,888	1,885	26·70	905	12·80	25	72	236	124	952	13·48
1917	71,582	1,802	...	25·17	919	12·83	21	57	261	144	955	13·34

* Rates in columns 5, 7 and 13 are calculated per 1,000 of population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in column 6 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district. The deaths included in column 12 are the number in column 6 corrected by the subtraction of the number in column 8 and the addition of the number in column 9.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons who died in the district but had a fixed or usual residence outside the district; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who having had a fixed or usual abode in the district happen to die outside the district.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) } 36,940.

Total population at all ages 60,040
Number of inhabited houses 11,382
Average number of persons per house ... 5·27
} At Census of 1911.

TABLE II

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1917

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified								Total Cases Notified in each Locality									Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years							Easington 1	Haswell 2	Shotton 3	Castle Eden, Hawthorn, Burdon, Cold Hesleden, Dalton-le-Dale 4	East Murton 5	Thornley and Kelloe 6	Wingate 7	Monk Hesleden, Hutton Henry, Sheraton, Hulam, Nesbit 8	Seaham, Seaton, Slingley 9	10
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards										
Small-pox																		
Cholera																		
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	24		3	17	3	1			5	6	5					1	7	8
Erysipelas	23				3	10	8	2	2		12	1		1	2	4	1	
Scarlet fever	65		15	43	4	3			8	11	9		2	1	14	16	4	9
Typhus fever																		
Enteric fever	23		2	2	8	10	1		6	1	5				6	3	2	19
Continued fever																		
Puerperal fever																		
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...																		
Poliomyelitis																		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	4								3						1		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	102		2	20	34	33	12	1	14	13	21	2	8	8	31	4	1	27
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	54		11	24	11	6	2		6	4	10	1	5	8	8	8	4	2
Measles	1,439	35	632	752	18	2			79	103	289	52	241	45	329	206	95	
Totals...	1,734	39	665	858	81	65	23	3	120	141	351	56	256	63	390	243	114	65

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria etc.: Isolation Hospital, Thorpe, Easington (District Council); Stanhope Sanatorium (Public Subscription); Sherburn House Hospital (Charity Investments); Easington Union Workhouse Hospital.

TABLE III

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1917 classified by age and cause

Causes of Death	Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents, whether occurring within or without the District									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-residents in Institutions in the District
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes — Certified	932	250	78	74	64	49	98	145	174	
All Causes — Uncertified	23	11		1		1	2	5	3	
1. Enteric fever										
2. Small-pox										
3. Measles	32	6	9	10	7					
4. Scarlet fever										
5. Whooping cough	23	14	5	4						
6. Diphtheria and Croup	9		1	1	7					4
7. Influenza	6					1	1	2	2	
8. Erysipelas	1							1		
9. Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	54	1	1	1	4	17	23	7		3
10. Tuberculous Meningitis	15	1	3	4	6	1				
11. Other tuberculous diseases	26	6	5	7	3		4		1	1
12. Cancer, malignant disease	43				2	1	4	23	13	
13. Rheumatic fever										
14. Meningitis	14	3	3	1	7					
15. Organic Heart Disease	59			1	4	2	9	20	23	4
16. Bronchitis	80	17	7	9	4		2	9	32	
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	90	21	14	19	7	6	11	8	4	2
18. Other diseases of respiratory organs	12			1	1	1		7	2	
19. Diarrhœa and Enteritis	76	41	18	6	2			5	4	
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis										
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	1						1			
21a. Alcoholism										
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	32		1	6	2	3	6	11	3	
23. Puerperal fever	1					1				
24. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ...	9					2	7			
25. Congenital debility and malformation, including premature birth	99	99								1
26. Violent Deaths, excluding suicide	59	3		4	5	11	19	14	3	2
27. Suicide	3						1		2	
28. Other defined diseases	161	45	11	1	3	3	12	41	45	8
29. Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	50	4				1		2	43	9
Totals...	955	261	78	75	64	50	100	150	177	34

TABLE IV

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

INFANT MORTALITY

1917. Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of age

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1–2 weeks	2–3 weeks	3–4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes — Certified...	64	11	13	6	94	49	39	24	44	250
All Causes — Uncertified	3	1			4	1	2	3	1	11
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox							1			1
Measles...							1	3	2	6
Scarlet fever										
Whooping cough						5	4		5	14
Diphtheria and Croup										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis						1				1
Abdominal Tuberculosis							2	1	2	5
Other tuberculous diseases							1		1	2
Meningitis (not tuberculous)... ...						1		1	1	3
Convulsions	1	2	1	1	5	3	7	5	7	27
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis						5	1	4	7	17
Pneumonia (all forms)			1		1	4	3	5	8	21
Diarrhœa						2	3	3	4	12
Enteritis			2		2	10	9	3	5	29
Gastritis										
Syphilis						3			1	4
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying						1				1
Injury at birth	7				7					7
Atelectasis	2				2					2
Congenital malformations	1	2			3			1		4
Premature birth	34	4	4	1	43	2	2	1		48
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	22	3	3	3	31	11	5			47
Other causes		1	2	1	4	2	2		2	10
Totals...	67	12	13	6	98	50	41	27	45	261

Net Births registered during the calendar year { Legitimate ... 1,725. Illegitimate ... 77.

Net Deaths registered during the calendar year of { Legitimate Infants ... 243. Illegitimate Infants ... 18.